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WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

*Paul M. Hebert**

It is a pleasure, on behalf of Louisiana State University in general, but especially in the name of the law faculty to greet you as you assemble for this regional conference on international law and foreign trade. By happy coincidence, the fiftieth anniversary year of the founding of the American Society of International Law also happens to be the fiftieth year in the institutional life of the L.S.U. Law School. This coincidence adds to the pleasure we are experiencing in joining with the Society and the Louisiana State Bar Association to act as hosts in sponsoring this conference.

As we look about us into the world of legal education there is great encouragement to be derived from an intensification of interest in those aspects of law which have significance far beyond the limits of municipal law or mere geographical boundaries. We find everywhere an expanding conception of the role which American legal education must play in the international community of which we are already and inescapably a leading part. In American law schools we see developing all about us programs of intellectual depth and of practical significance in foreign and international law which even a decade ago were only a gleam in the eye of those devoted scholars whose work has kept these subjects alive during the period in which their practical utility was by no means as evident as it is now. Just this week there reached my desk an announcement from the University of Chicago Law School of the establishment of a new program in foreign law especially designed to train for American business more personnel who, on the basis of study in this country and in a foreign country, will acquire a broader knowledge of differing legal systems so essential in an ever-shrinking world. Programs of similar ambitious scope are under way in many other legal centers throughout the nation.

The organized bar is necessarily interested in and concerned with such developments because the members of the bar, in geographical areas where it was never thought such demands would exist, are finding that there are more and more calls for the

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American lawyer who can, on relatively short notice, pack his bag and in a matter of hours be in the law office of a distinguished advocate in a foreign country working out with him the problems of their clients. In correlative fashion, the lawyer from a distant land with a completely differing legal system is experiencing the need for a broader acquaintance with the workings of Anglo-American law. All of this indicates a compelling necessity for conferences such as this in which we begin to break the ground, so to speak, in areas of the law which are destined in the years ahead to claim an increasing portion of the time and attention of law schools and lawyers.

Our conference then is timely and important. We are grateful to those whose work has gone into the planning; to the participants in the program, some of whom have come great distances to be with us; to the American Society of International Law without whose encouragement this meeting would not have been possible; to the Louisiana State Bar Association for its cooperation and assistance, and to my colleagues Professors Joseph Dainow and Leon Lebowitz who have handled most of the details that are involved in such an enterprise.

We hope you will visit our Law Library and the special exhibits, prepared by Miss Kate Wallach, our law librarian, here on display and that the day will be both profitable and enjoyable. It is a pleasure to have you on the campus of Louisiana State University.